

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Norbert Marocco

SERIAL No.: Unassigned

EXAMINER: Unassigned

FILED: Herewith

GROUP No.: Unassigned

TITLE: SINGLE PLATE CUT DOWN APPARATUS

Attorney Docket No.: 625.0006USQ

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

**In The Claims**

Please amend the claims

1. (Amended) A blind cut-down apparatus for trim cutting a blind having at least a head rail component, and blind materials suspended from the head rail, comprising;

a blind component holding plate having at least a head rail opening and a blind material opening formed therein for receiving respective components of a blind therethrough, and holding them in position for cutting;

a blind cutting bar moveable relative to said holding plate, and carrying material cutting means, for cutting blind material extending through said holding plate;

a head rail cutting die support adjacent to said cutting bar, said head rail

cutting die support having at least one cutting die for receiving said head rail extending there through, and being moveable relative to said holding plate for cutting at said head rail; and

movement means for moving said blind material cutting bar and said cutting die support substantially simultaneously, whereby both said blind material and said head rail may be cut in a common plane along the surface of said holding plate.

2. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the headrail defines a transverse axis and in which the headrail opening in the holding plate is located and oriented so as to position the axis of said head rail diagonal to the longitudinal axis of the holding plate, and in which the head rail cutting die defines a cutting opening which is similarly diagonal, the cutting die support being slidably moveable relative to the holding plate, so that the headrail is cut along a linear axis which is diagonal to the transverse axis of the head rail.

3. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the material cutting bar is also slidable along a linear path relative to the holder plate, and in the same plane as said cutting die support, said material cutter bar being spaced from said cutting die support by a distance at least equal to the cutting path of said blind material cutting bar.

4. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said movement means comprises a rotary shaft mounted in said holder plate, and a cam mounted on said rotary shaft for moving said cutting die support a sufficient distance to sever the headrail, and including movement transmission means connecting between said rotary shaft and said blind material cutter bar, for moving said cutter bar simultaneously with said cutting die support.

5. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a base plate, a lower slide channel fixed to said base plate, and a said blind component plate being secured to said guide channel along a lower edge of said holding plate, and further including an upper guide channel secured to the upper side of said component plate.

6. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said blind cutting bar is slidably received in said lower and upper guide channels and wherein said headrail cutting die support is also slidably received in said lower and upper guide channels, said cutting bar and said die support thereby sliding in a common plane and being separate from one another.

7. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said rotary shaft carries cam, mounted on said shaft and said boss being received in a opening form in said cutting die support, for moving said cutting die support along a cutting die movement path, comprising link arm means connected to said rotary shaft, and to said cutter bar, for moving said cutter bar through a cutter bar movement path, said cutter bar movement path being longer than said cutter die support movement path.

8. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising an end stop member mounted adjacent to but spaced from said head rail die support and said blind slat cutter bar.

9. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said cam is located on an axis of said shaft which is offset from a rotary axis of said shaft, wherein a boss is mounted on said cam, for orbital movement, and wherein said link arm is connected to said boss.

10. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising a first end stop means for registering with said headrail cutting dies, second end stop means registering with said blind component cutting opening, first adjustment means for adjusting the spacing between said first end stop and said headrail cutting dies, and second adjustment means for adjusting the spacing between said second end stop and said cutting bar opening.

11. (Amended) The blind cut down apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a linkage connected between said cutter bar and said end stop means, for moving said end stop means away from said cutting die and said cutter bar, upon movement of said movement means to procure a cutting stroke.

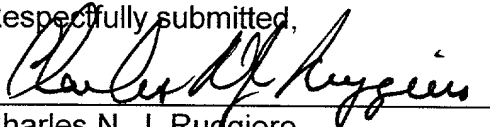
**Remarks**

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

March 21, 2001  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE  
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A blind cut-down apparatus for trim cutting a blind having at least a head rail component, and blind materials suspended from the head rail, [and] comprising;

a blind component holding plate having at least a head rail opening and a blind material opening formed therein for receiving respective components of a blind therethrough, and holding them in position for cutting;

a blind cutting bar moveable relative to said holding plate, and carrying material cutting means, for cutting blind material extending through said holding plate;

a head rail cutting die support adjacent to said cutting bar, said head rail cutting die support having at least one cutting die for receiving said head rail extending there through, and being moveable relative to said holding plate for cutting at said head rail[,] ; and[,]

movement means for moving said blind material cutting bar and said cutting die support substantially simultaneously, whereby both said blind material and said head rail may be cut in a common plane along the surface of said holding plate.

2. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 1,<sub>1</sub> wherein the headrail defines a transverse axis and in which the headrail opening in the holding plate is located and oriented so as to position the axis of said head rail diagonal to the longitudinal axis of the holding plate, and in which the head rail cutting die defines a cutting opening which is similarly diagonal, the cutting die support being slidably moveable relative to the holding plate, so that the headrail is cut along a linear axis which is diagonal to the transverse axis of the head rail.

3. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 2,  
wherein the material cutting bar is also slidable along a linear path relative to the  
holder plate, and in the same plane as said cutting die support, said material cutter  
bar being spaced from said cutting die support by a distance at least equal to the  
cutting path of said blind material cutting bar.

4. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 2,  
wherein said movement means comprises a rotary shaft mounted in said holder  
plate, and a cam mounted on said rotary shaft for moving said cutting die support a  
sufficient distance to sever the headrail, and including movement transmission  
means connecting between said rotary shaft and said blind material cutter bar, for  
moving said cutter bar simultaneously with said cutting die support.

5. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 1,  
[and including] further comprising a base plate, a lower slide channel fixed to said  
base plate, and a said blind component plate being secured to said guide channel  
along a lower edge of said holding plate, and further including an upper guide  
channel secured to the upper side of said component plate.

6. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 5,  
wherein said blind cutting bar is slidably received in said lower and upper guide  
channels and wherein said headrail cutting die support is also slidably received in  
said lower and upper guide channels, said cutting bar and said die support thereby  
sliding in a common plane and being separate from one another.

7. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 4,  
wherein said rotary shaft carries cam, mounted on said shaft and said boss being  
received in a opening form in said cutting die support, for moving said cutting die  
support along a cutting die movement path, [and including] comprising link arm  
means connected to said rotary shaft, and to said cutter bar, for moving said cutter  
bar through a cutter bar movement path, said cutter bar movement path being  
longer than said cutter die support movement path.

8. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 7,  
[and including] further comprising an end stop member mounted adjacent to but  
spaced from said head rail die support and said blind slat cutter bar.

9. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 7,  
wherein said cam is located on an axis of said shaft which is offset from a rotary  
axis of said shaft, [and] wherein a boss is mounted on said cam, for orbital  
movement, and wherein said link arm is connected to said boss.

10. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 8,  
[and including] further comprising a first end stop means for registering with said  
headrail cutting dies, [and] second end stop means registering with said blind  
component cutting opening, [and] first adjustment means for adjusting the spacing  
between said first end stop and said headrail cutting dies, and second adjustment  
means for adjusting the spacing between said second end stop and said cutting bar  
opening.

11. (Amended) [A] The blind cut down apparatus [as claimed in] of Claim 10,  
[and including] further comprising a linkage connected between said cutter bar and  
said end stop means, for moving said end stop means away from said cutting die  
and said cutter bar, upon movement of said movement means to procure a cutting  
stroke.